GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7862
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2000
INFANT MORTALITY RATE IN TRIBAL AREAS OF ORISSA
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing infant mortality rate in the tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the deaths of pregnant women are also on the increase in the tribal districts in that State; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such deaths?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS

SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU

(a)&(b) District wise information on Infant Mortality Rate for 1981&91, made available by the Registrar General of India shows that Infant Mortality Rate has registered a decline in all the districts in Orissa during this period.Districtwise details provided by Registrar General of India are enclosed.

(c) Districtwise data on deaths on pregnant mothers in tribal districts of Orissa is not available. The state government has reported that as against 129 deaths of pregnant women recorded in 1998-99, 138 deaths were recorded in 1999-2000. According to the data available from the Registrar General of India on Maternal Mortality Rate for Orissa for 1997, it was 361 per 100,000 live births compared to the national average of 408 per 100,000 live births.

(d) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme launched in 1997, a number of interventions are being implemented for reducing the maternal mortality and infant mortality rates. For the mothers, the interventions include antenatal and postnatal check up, improving safe delivery practices, prophylaxis and treatment of maternal anemia, immunization against Tetanus, identification and referral of high risk pregnancies, establishing first Referral Units and promotion of birth spacing. The interventions being implemented for reducing infant mortality include immunization against vaccine preventable diseases, pulse polio programme, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections, new born care, control of Vitamin A deficiency and anemia and promotion of breast-feeding.